

Message Text

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-----114900 251740Z /53

R 251604Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS STATE 133264

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, JA, ETRD

SUBJECT: TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE: COURTESY CALL BY
COMMERCIAL MINISTER OF JAPANESE EMBASSY

1. IN MAY 19 COURTESY CALL ON COMMERCE DEPARTMENT(SIMPSON AND JOHNSON, OFFICE OF COUNTRY AFFAIRS) INCOMING JAPANESE EMBASSY COMMERCIAL MINISTER, HIRONARI MASAGO, RAISED FOLLOWING SUBJECTS: COMMERCE-SPONSORED EXPORT DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO JAPAN, GOJ'S WORLD IMPORT MART, AND POSSIBILITY AMBASSADOR STRAUSS MIGHT RAISE TFC AT MAY 24 MEETING WITH USHIBA. MASAGO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY FIRST SECRETARY (COMMERCIAL) TANABE, WHO DID MOST OF THE TALKING.

2. COMMERCE FURNISHED AND REVIEWED FACT SHEETS ON EXPORT DEVELOPMENT MISSION PREPARED FOR MAY 5 MEETING WITH INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS, AND ENCOURAGED EMBASSY TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH COMMERCE'S OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL MARKETING (OIM) AS PLANS PROGRESS.

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3. TANABE SAID GOJ NEEDS TO KNOW BY END OF MAY WHETHER USG INTENDS TAKE EXHIBIT SPACE IN WORLD IMPORT MART. COMMERCE TOOK NOTE OF REQUEST, AND SUGGESTED MATTER BE RAISED WITH GARNITZ (OIM), WHO WAS ENROUTE TO TOKYO TO

DISCUSS, INTER ALIA, WORLD IMPORT MART.

4. MASAGO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AMBASSADOR STRAUSS WAS INTENDING TO RAISE TFC WITH USHIBA MAY 24 AND WONDERED WHAT HE WOULD SAY. COMMERCE STATED IT COULD NOT SPEAK FOR AMBASSADOR STRAUSS, BUT COMMENTED IT HAD SUGGESTED THAT HE STRESS TO USHIBA THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF HAVING SUCCESSFUL RESULTS ON TFC CASES. COMMERCE NOTED IT WISHED TO SPEED UP CASE PROCESSING, AND WAS FORWARDING SEVERAL NEW CASES TO TOKYO THAT WEEK.

5. COMMERCE THEN TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF VISITORS ON CLOSE CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN TFC DEVELOPMENTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, COMMERCE PROVIDED COPIES OF MAY 18 PRESS RELEASE BY CONGRESSMAN JONES AND OF ACCOMPANYING SUMMARY OF FIRST REPORT OF WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE JAPAN TASK FORCE CONSISTING OF CONGRESSMEN JONES, FRENZEL AND MIKVA. (COPIES OF PRESS RELEASE AND REPORT SUMMARY AIRMAILED). COMMERCE ADVISED IT WAS PROVIDING TASK FORCE WITH REQUESTED WEEKLY REPORT ON TFC, INCLUDING STATISTICS ON STATUS OF TFC CASES. MASAGO URGED THAT JETRO'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE IMPORTS BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN EVALUATING TFC PROGRESS. COMMERCE ASSURED HIM THAT IT WOULD TAKE CARE TO GIVE CONGRESS A BALANCED PICTURE OF TFC RESULTS.

6. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION WHEN NEXT MEETING OF SENIOR REVIEW COMMITTEE (SRC) WOULD BE HELD, COMMERCE RESPONDED UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT BECAUSE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN ASSISTANT SECRETARY WEIL'S SCHEDULE, IT HAD ASKED EMBASSY TOKYO TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF SCHEDULING SRC MEETING AFTER JULY 4. CHRISTOPHER

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